

REMARKS

The following remarks are presented to supplement the remarks filed in the response to the Final Office Action, the response filed on June 27, 2006 and now entered in this application.

In addition to the points of patentable distinction presented in the prior response, it is worthy to note that Tabuchi does generate an electrical signal from the photodetector and that Tabuchi uses that signal for a purpose other than calibrating the photodetector. Instead, Tabuchi utilizes that electrical signal from photodetector 21 to control the power of laser 20 via a series of elements including laser power monitor pre-amplifier 31, power control IC 33 and laser diode drive IC 30. Tabuchi neither teaches, shows, nor suggests calibrating the photodetector at least in part by a comparison of the electrical signal to characterization data. As a result, the claims are neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Tabuchi.

In addition to the points of patentable distinction presented in the prior response, it is worthy to note that Spaeth fails to reflect the light from the semiconductor light source to the photodetector by using the beam splitter device. In FIG. 1 and the associated specification, Spaeth uses a path straight through the beam splitter to couple the semiconductor light source and the photodetector 21 monitoring that source. In FIG. 2 and the associated specification, Spaeth does not show or disclose the use of a photodetector to monitor the light source. Spaeth does show a photodetector that is used to monitor the light received in the reverse direction from the optical fiber. Finally, in FIG. 3 and the associated specification, Spaeth couple the semiconductor light source and the photodetector 21 monitoring that source directly via the back (rear) facet of the light source itself. No beam splitter is employed for that purpose. Spaeth neither teaches, shows, nor suggests a photodetector receiving a reflected portion of the light from the light source via a beam splitter device. As a result, the claims are neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Spaeth.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above and the prior response, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Gregory C. Ranieri, Esq. at (503) 439-6500 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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